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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

August 2, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Imam Nayyar Imam, Suffolk County Police Department, Yaphank, New York, offered the following prayer:

We beseech God Almighty, calling upon Him by the most noble of His characteristics. We bear witness in testimony that He is the sovereign, the omnipotent, the exalted, the all knowing.

God Almighty, we ask that You bestow upon all of our elected officials guidance and patience required to carry out the solemn task of legislation before them. Grant them commitment to serve before being served, a sense of fraternity before partisanship, and dedication to the interests of our country before the interests of even their own selves.

The final prophet of God, Muhammad, peace be upon him, stated:

The leaders of a people are a representation of their deeds.

We ask God Almighty that He make our elected officials true representatives of honesty, equality, and the values that represent the uniqueness of our Nation.

We ask You, Almighty God, that You look to us with glance of mercy, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or political party. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WITTMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROCRASTINATION IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, after today, Congress completes its business until September without finishing critical items, leaving many sectors across this country uncertain about their fiscal future. Looming defense cuts, or sequestration, still hang over the Congress as unfinished business.

I'm extremely disappointed that Congress is leaving town without addressing such pressing issues and with so little time scheduled in the rest of this legislative year. Many Americans in America's First District are frustrated with Washington's lack of action and

accomplishments as this country struggles to rebound from these tough economic times. Virginians, and all Americans, have the right to be upset with such irresponsible procrastination.

Sequestration threatens our country's national security and sends the wrong message to the American people and to the world about our commitment to defend this great Nation in the future. Congress should stay in Washington to finish the business of the people. I am prepared to stay in Washington as long as it takes. These issues are too important to wait.

THE INNOVATION PROMOTION ACT

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. To strengthen our economic competitiveness in a global economy, we must create the right environment for private sector growth in cutting-edge industries. As we work to reform our corporate Tax Code, it's critical that we consider policies that reflect our 21st century economy, an innovation economy, and promote new domestic manufacturing based on the best ideas developed right here in America.

Today, I will introduce a plan to incentivize manufacturing, innovation, and research and development right here in the United States. The Innovation Promotion Act keeps American businesses competitive by reducing their tax rate on patented products by more than half to 10 percent.

This lower tax rate is a major incentive to keep production here in the United States and will better ensure American companies that choose to stay in the U.S. can compete with foreign competitors, expand to new markets, and hire new workers.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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